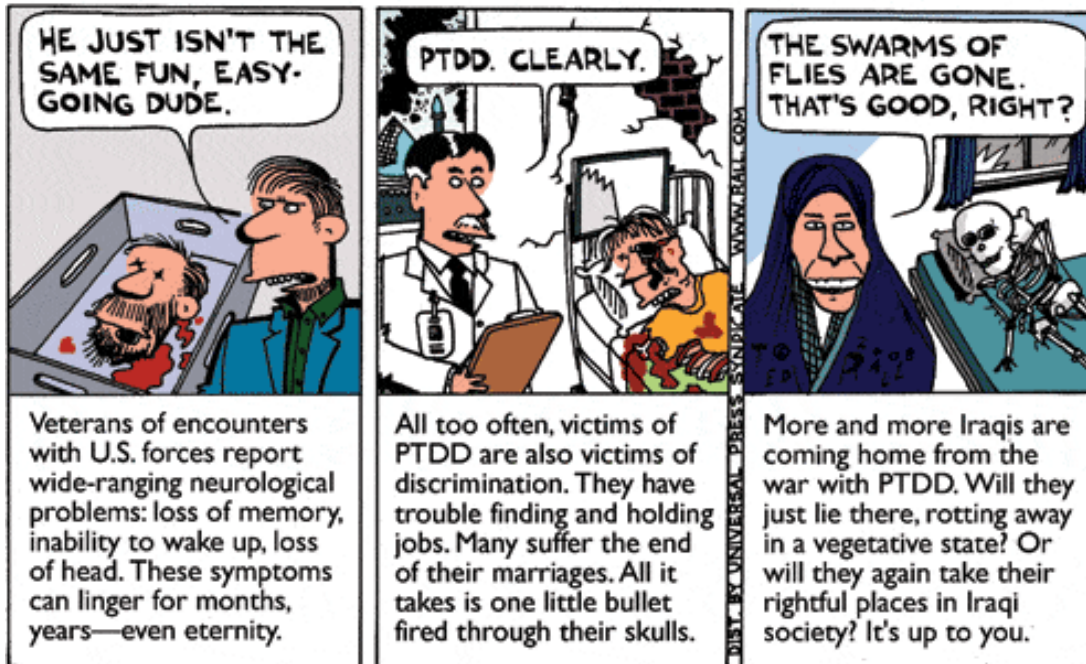


GI SPECIAL 6C8:

A MILLION IRAQIS ARE COMING BACK FROM THE WAR, REDUCED TO SHADOWS OF THEIR FORMER SELVES. THEY'RE NOT CRAZY. THEY HAVE

post traumatic death disorder



“As They Drove Right Past Us, They Waved, Gave Us The Peace Sign And Fists Up!”

“Even The Driver Of The Stryker!”

“We Could Hear Them Yelling In The Bus, And The Smiles On Their Faces Was Worth The Trip, Once Again”



ACTION REPORT:

From: Elaine Brower, The Military Project
To: GI Special
Sent: March 11, 2008
Subject: Ft. Dix report

Another day at Ft. Dix

Last Sunday, which has become a regular day for us to make a trip to Ft. Dix, New Jersey, we decided to take our cookies and literature to the troops.

This time 2 of us headed from Staten Island, and 5 interested activists headed up from Baltimore. We all decided to meet up at our “marked territory” as we call it now.

The military DoD police that patrol the grounds of the base, as well as the local county sheriff designated a corner directly across the street from the entrance to the base as a spot we could conduct our outreach. So we try to frequent it as much as possible!

We got to the corner about 1:15 PM, but on the road to the base, we kept seeing military convoys with armored vehicles, humvees, jeeps and troop transport buses.

Of course we were so excited to see the action.

We had an assumption that these troops were being moved off-base to another location for deployment since the New Jersey National Guard is expecting deployment the end of the month.

By the time we got down to the entrance, we saw 4 separate convoys drive by us. You think it was Christmas all over again, we were laughing like kids!

The opportunity to reach all of these different units in one afternoon was overwhelming.

The 2 of us decided that if we got to the corner and saw another convoy we would follow it.

So we got our literature (very neatly wrapped in gallon size Ziploc bags), and our "Support The Troops, End the War" poster, and stood.

We handed out a few packages, and then we saw a convoy coming off the base.

As we stood there watching another vehicle procession, especially a large Stryker vehicle, with troops in full battle gear uniforms and the bus of soldiers following it, we were frozen.

As they drove right past us, they waved, gave us the peace sign and fists up!

Even the driver of the Stryker! We could hear them yelling in the bus, and the smiles on their faces was worth the trip, once again.

That's when we jumped in the car and followed.

We wound up right behind a maintenance truck hauling fuel. Thinking and hoping that this convoy would take us to a location of mass deployment, we figured we needed more literature and cookies. The drive was about an hour, and we headed right to Philadelphia.

In the meantime, our friends from Baltimore were still trying to make their way to Ft. Dix, getting lost in the process.

The end of the line was a U.S. Army Reserve Unit right outside the port of Philly. They neatly parked the convoy, and carried their packed seabags into the building. Guess we were feeling really silly at that point, and not understanding why we drove 50 miles out of our way!

But then we realized that they had been training all weekend, and this was just a prelude for things to come.

By the next visit to Dix, these guys would be deploying for certain.

We headed back to the base, and we got there about 4:15 PM, just about when our friends from the south arrived.

They were checking out the town, and leafleting small stores, Laundromats, gas stations with Winter Soldier flyers.

When they got to the gates and our territory, they seemed confused.

So the “seasoned” outreach personnel showed them what to do.

In minutes they were handing out Ziploc bags to every car on every corner, and most of those vehicles turned into the base.

They spoke with the passengers as well as the drivers to the point that there was a line of cars down the main road while the light was green!

At one point the young woman from Baltimore came over and hugged her friend and declared “I am so excited and happy!”

By 5:15 PM, we were ready to head back to Staten Island. Our friends stayed there until it got dark, and then went back into town to hand out more of our packages.

All in all we were able to get out 100 flyers for the upcoming Winter Soldier event, and about 50 packets with cookies, candies and Traveling Soldier! Plus a scenic tour to Philly!



[Photos by Elaine Brower]

MORE:

ACTION REPORT:

**Outreach To New York Army
National Guard;**

“The Troops In Turn Greeted Us With Warm Smiles”

“Military Project Raised The Bar On Friday Evening”

From: Alberto Jaccoma [Military Project & Veterans For Peace]
To: GI Special
Sent: March 12, 2008
Subject: 3/7 Outreach Report

Neither driving rain, howling wind nor biting cold kept the National Guard from making their weekend muster on Friday evening March 7th.

Intrepid members of Military Project NYC were there to greet them and offer real Troop support in the form of home baked sweets, the latest issue of Traveling Soldier, Winter Soldier 2008 information, a flyer for the Military Project organizers conference on April 5th, copies of "Sir No Sir" and a pamphlet on GI rights.

The Troops in turn greeted us with warm smiles and a new sense of respect for our mission. Some refused the sweets but eagerly sought the literature.

One officer who had refused our material in the past was more receptive in the pouring rain!

Persistence, sincerity and dedication are the keys to success in this work.

Military Project raised the bar on Friday evening.

MORE ACTION REPORTS WANTED: FROM YOU!

An effective way to encourage others to support members of the armed forces organizing to resist the Imperial war is to report what you do.

If you've carried out organized contact with troops on active duty, at base gates, airports, or anywhere else, send a report in to GI Special for the Action Reports section.

Same for contact with National Guard and/or Reserve components.

They don't have to be long. Just clear, and direct action reports about what work was done and how.

If there were favorable responses, say so. If there were unfavorable responses or problems, don't leave them out.

If you are not planning or engaging in outreach to the troops, you have nothing to report.

NOTE WELL:

Do not make public any information that could compromise the work.

Whether you are serving in the armed forces or not, do not in any way identify members of the armed forces organizing to stop the war.

If accidentally included, that information will not be published.

The sole exception: occasions when a member of the armed services explicitly directs his or her name be listed as reporting on the action.

“The single largest failure of the anti-war movement at this point is the lack of outreach to the troops.” Tim Goodrich, Iraq Veterans Against The War

**“The military are the final, essential weak point of Bush and Cheney.”
David McReynolds 9.29.07**

**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR RELATIVE IN THE
SERVICE?**

Forward GI Special along, or send us the address if you wish and we'll send it regularly. Whether in Iraq or stuck on a base in the USA, this is extra important for your service friend, too often cut off from access to encouraging news of growing resistance to the war, inside the armed services and at home. Send email requests to address up top or write to: The Military Project, Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657

IRAQ WAR REPORTS

**5 U.S. Soldiers Killed In Baghdad;
Three More Wounded**

[Thanks to Mark Shapiro, who sent this in.]

March 10 (Reuters)

Five U.S. soldiers were killed and three others wounded in a bomb blast in central Baghdad on Monday, the U.S. military said, in the worst single attack on U.S. forces in Baghdad in months.

An Iraqi interpreter was also wounded in the explosion, which hit the soldiers while they were on foot patrol, the military said in a statement.

Iraqi police said the soldiers had been walking in the street in Mansour district when a bomber wearing an explosives vest walked up to them and blew himself up.

The U.S. military said four soldiers were killed in the blast and one died later of wounds

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed By IED In Balad Ruz, Another Wounded

March 10, 2008 By Hannah Allam and Yasseen Taha, McClatchy Newspapers & Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080311-01

Three American soldiers and an interpreter were killed Monday by a homemade bomb — what the military calls an improvised explosive device — in the town of Balad Ruz in the Diyala province northwest of Baghdad.

Another Soldier was wounded and transported to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

Three U.S. Soldiers Killed By Rocket Attack On Their Base Somewhere Or Other In Iraq; Two More Wounded

March 12, 2008 (AFP)

A rocket attack on a US military base south of Baghdad on Wednesday killed three soldiers and wounded two in the third lethal attack on troops this week, the military said.

U.S. Soldier Killed Near Ad Diwaniyah;

Two More Wounded

3.12.08 Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory RELEASE No. 20080312-02

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq – A U.S. Soldier was killed from injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device during a combat patrol near Ad Diwaniyah March 11.

Additionally, two U.S. Soldiers were wounded in the explosion and transported to a Coalition forces medical facility for further evaluation and treatment.

Bucks County High School Graduate Dies On Third Tour In Iraq

March 12, 2008 WCAU

Rick Pforter said 32-year-old Sgt. 1st Class Shawn Suzch first joined the Army as a way to finance a college education.

Suzch served in Kosovo and was on his third tour of duty in Iraq. He was killed by a suicide bomber while on foot patrol.

Pforter, who remained a close friend, said Suzch came to see the Army as the family he never had growing up. "I was devastated. My wife and I were both devastated," Pforter said.

Although Suzch was actually Pforter's foster son, he is grieving as if he'd lost his own blood.

"It's now settling in that it's real," Pforter said.

Pforter said he got the news Monday that Suzch and three of his men were killed in a bombing in Baghdad Monday afternoon

He was 32 years old, a husband, and father of a 6-month-old daughter, a far cry from the high school junior who came to live with the Pforters.

At that time, Suzch was a wayward teenager with no father in the picture, and a mother who barely saw him.

"He always wanted a family, and didn't have that," Pforter said. "Shawn didn't get home passes with other kids, who have families that cared about them, so he spent a year and a half with us pretty much day in and day out."

And soon, Suzch became part of the Pforter family.

"He ended up being a big brother to my sons. They loved playing basketball," he said. "His attitude was, 'All right, this is the hand that I've been dealt, and I'm going to deal with it, and I'll deal with it in a real positive manner.'"

Suzch graduated from Pennridge High School in 1994 and went straight into the Army. Besides his wife and child, Suzch also found a family in the military.

"He would say, 'these are my men and we do everything together, and a good day is when we all come back alive,'" Pforter said.

It wasn't a good day on Monday. But Pforter said his foster son had a great life. He went from a boy who barely had any family to a man who leaves behind an army of families.

"I think he'd be saying 'thank you.' It's hard," Pforter said.

Pforter said a bittersweet twist to the story is that he doesn't know if the Army's been able to find Suzch's biological mother and two half-brothers to tell them the news of his death.

Suzch is survived by his wife, Angela, of Fort Stewart, Ga., and their daughter, Alyssa Jayden, who was born in September. The couple also had a son, but he was born with lung defects and died in a year.

Occupation Soldier Wounded South Of Nasiriyah, Nationality Not Announced

3.11.08 (AP)

One coalition soldier and one Iraqi civilian were wounded in an attack about 50 miles south of Nasiriyah, about 200 miles southeast of Baghdad, which was targeting a passing military convoy.

Severed Fingers Of Mercenaries Delivered To U.S. Occupation Officials

March 12, 2008 By Hannah Allam, McClatchy Newspapers [Excerpts]

BAGHDAD — U.S. authorities in Baghdad have received five severed fingers belonging to four Americans and an Austrian who were taken hostage more than a year ago in Iraq, U.S. officials said Wednesday.

Authorities confirmed that the fingers belonged to hostages Jonathan Cote, of Gainesville, Fla.; Joshua Munns, of Redding, Calif.; Paul Johnson Reuben, of Buffalo,

Minn.; Bert Nussbaumer of Vienna, Austria; and Ronald J. Withrow, an American who was kidnapped separately from the others.

No information was available on when or how the fingers were delivered to U.S. authorities. Some relatives of the missing men said that they'd heard weeks ago that the DNA of the hostages had been obtained, but they'd been given no details.

The first four men were security contractors with Kuwait-based Crescent Security and were captured in a brazen ambush of their 43-truck supply convoy in the southern Iraqi town of Safwan, near the Kuwaiti border, on Nov. 16, 2006.

REALLY BAD PLACE TO BE: ALL HOME NOW



US soldiers patrol an area in Baghdad's al-Amil neighbourhood. (AFP/Ali Al-Saadi)

AFGHANISTAN WAR REPORTS

U.S. Soldier Killed In Gholam Haydar Kala

March 12, 2008 U.S. Department of Defense News Release No. 190-08

Sgt. Gabriel Guzman, 25, of Hornbrook, Calif., died March 8 at Orgun E, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Gholam Haydar Kala, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 508th

Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

3 Romanian Soldiers Wounded Near Qalat

March 12, 2008 The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania: Three Romanian soldiers were wounded Wednesday in southern Afghanistan, the Romanian defense ministry said.

The troops were on patrol between Qalat and Kandahar when their armored personnel carrier drove over an improvised exploding device.

The wounded soldiers were in stable condition at a hospital in Kandahar, and will continue their mission in Afghanistan, Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu said.

Canadian Convoy Attacked; One Soldier Wounded



Afghan police officers and Canadian soldiers inspect the site of an explosion in Kandahar, Afghanistan. (Allauddin Khan/The Associated Press)

March 12, 2008 The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan: A car bomber attacked a convoy of Canadian troops in southern Afghanistan Wednesday, killing a passing civilian and wounding one soldier.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene in Kandahar said a Humvee vehicle of the convoy was burned and destroyed. NATO troops cordoned off the area, preventing journalists and police getting near the vehicles.

As More Civilians Are Butchered, U.S. Officer Says Occupation Losing The War

[Thanks to JM, who sent this in.]

12 Mar 2008 By Luke Baker, Reuters

LONDON, March 12 (Reuters) - Four civilians died in an air strike in Afghanistan, Britain's defence ministry said on Wednesday, and a military expert said the tide of the war against insurgents was running against the United States and its allies.

Tuesday's strike was called in after Taliban militants ambushed British troops operating in the southern province of Helmand, the ministry said.

Two women and two children were killed and a fifth person was injured.

Lieutenant Colonel John Nagl, a U.S. military official and counter-insurgency expert, told a Stockholm security conference the tide of the Afghan conflict was running against the United States and its allies, in contrast to Iraq.

TROOP NEWS

Officer In Charge Of Wars Wasn't In Charge Of Wars; Adm. Fallon Forced Out: Wanted Faster Troops Withdrawal Than Gen. Betrayus

[Thanks to Pham Binh, Military Project & Traveling Soldier, who sent this in.]

Mar 11, 2008 By ROBERT BURNS AP Military Writer [Excerpts]

The Navy admiral in charge of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan announced Tuesday that he is resigning over press reports portraying him as opposed to President Bush's Iran policy.

Adm. William J. Fallon, one of the most experienced officers in the U.S. military, said the reports were wrong but had become a distraction hampering his efforts in the Middle East. Fallon's area of responsibility includes Iran and stretches from Central Asia across the Middle East to the Horn of Africa.

Gen. David Petraeus, who runs the Iraq war from Baghdad but is technically subordinate to Fallon, was known to have differences with Fallon over the timing and pace of drawing down U.S. troops from Iraq.

Fallon has favored a faster pullback.

THIS IS HOW BUSH BRINGS THE TROOPS HOME: BRING THEM ALL HOME NOW, ALIVE



The casket of Army Spc. Luke Runyan during a funeral services at Arlington National Cemetery March 10, 2008. Runyan, of Spring Grove, Pa., was killed Feb. 17 in Diyala Province of Iraq of small arms fire. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

An Appeal For Help From Rose Gentle, Mother Of Gordon Gentle, KIA

[This is a message to Americans from Rose Gentle. Her son Gordon was killed in Iraq. She leads a campaign to bring all the Scots and other troops home from Iraq, now; a truly great lady. T]

From: Rose Gentle
Sent: March 09, 2008
Subject: parashut jump

hi its rose just to see if you can help me

i am going to do a parashut jump for combat stress and would be grateful if you could email this out to all the contacts that you have to sponcer me or give me a donashon,

i have to raise £150 to do it, then all the rest of the donation's will go to combat stress,

rose gentle
52 templeland rd pollok
glasgow, g53, 5pg
[UK]

IRAQ RESISTANCE ROUNDUP

Five Iraqi Collaborators With U.S. Occupation Lose Their Heads Fighting Resistance; Others Run Away

Mar 13 AFP

Militants attacked a village in Diyala province north of Baghdad and beheaded five members of a local group.

Police Lieutenant Colonel Najim al-Sumaidaie said the militants raided the village of Benizad, south of the provincial capital Baquba, and attacked a newly created outpost of a local "Awakening" group.

"Five people from the Sahwa (Awakening) group were shot dead and later beheaded by the militants," Sumaidaie said, referring to groups who have allied with the US military.

One of the members of the group who survived the attack with injuries said they had established the outpost on Tuesday.

"We set up the outpost with the help of Iraqi army soldiers who later left us to man the post. However, this afternoon we were attacked," he said from his bed in a hospital in Baquba where he is being treated for his wounds.

"Five of our number were killed after we ran short of ammunition. Another 10 of us escaped.

"We later alerted the army, who went to the village and found that the five men who were shot dead had been beheaded. Their bodies were mutilated."

Resistance Action

08 Mar 2008 & March 9 (Reuters) & March 10, 2008 The Associated Press & Reuters & By Hannah Allam and Yasseen Taha, McClatchy Newspapers & 11 Mar 2008 Reuters & 12 Mar 2008 Reuters

BAGHDAD: A female bomber killed the head of one of the controversial U.S.-sponsored Sunni militias northeast of Baghdad on Monday, the targeted leader's brother provincial police said. A child and a security guard were also killed.

The woman, wearing an explosives belt, entered the house of Sheik Thaeir Ghadhban al-Karkhi in the predominantly Sunni town of Kanaan, 20 kilometers (13 miles) east of Baqouba in Iraq's restive Diyala province, and blew herself up, said Duraid Mahmoud, the sheik's brother.

Police and relatives of the victim said a young woman had come to the sheik's home in the city of Kanaan late Sunday night pleading for his assistance to free her kidnapped husband. She was granted an appointment Monday morning and wasn't searched when she entered the home for the second time, said Duraid Mahmoud Ghadhban, the slain tribal leader's nephew, who worked as a bodyguard and was present during the attack.

"She came back this morning and nobody checked her. She had an appointment with the sheik and the guards told her to go and knock on his door," Mahmoud said.

"I saw her when she came today but I was about to move to go somewhere else. Less than a minute later, I heard the explosion and I came back quickly and saw my uncle's body. I couldn't believe it," Ghadhban said.

The woman approached al Karkhi and detonated her explosives vest, instantly killing the sheik along with his 5-year-old niece and two bodyguards, Ghadhban said.

Three fuel truck drivers were killed when three roadside bombs went off near a convoy of seven fuel trucks on the main road near Samarra, 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, police said. Three trucks were set ablaze.

Six fuel trucks were set ablaze and three drivers were wounded on Tuesday when a bomb attached to one of the vehicles detonated, in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Around 20 insurgents attacked a juvenile prison and freed five prisoners in Baghdad, police said. Three guards and three prisoners were wounded in the attack.

A roadside bomb killed a member of a U.S. funded neighbourhood security unit and wounded four others in Hawija, 70 km (45 miles) southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

A roadside bomb blew up near a police patrol in central Tikrit, 175 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, killing a lieutenant and wounding three policemen, police said.

Guerrillas killed two policemen in separate incidents in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, on Sunday, police said.

A bomber wearing an explosives-packed vest wounded two policemen in Muqdadiya, 90 km (55 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said.

One Iraqi soldier was wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near his patrol in western Baghdad's Mansour district, police said.

Two policemen were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near their patrol in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

Four policemen were killed when guerrillas attacked a police checkpoint in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A roadside bomb wounded three U.S.-backed neighbourhood police when it targeted their car in a town southwest of Kirkuk, police said.

A car bomb killed two members of a U.S.-backed neighbourhood police patrol and wounded three others when it hit their checkpoint in Thar Thar, 80 km (50 miles) northwest of Baghdad, police said.

Insurgents killed a police officer on Monday in the city of Baiji, 180 km (110 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

A bomb planted inside the city council building in the town of Yusufiya, 15 km (9 miles) south of Baghdad, killed one person and wounded eight, police said.

A roadside bomb targeted a police patrol, wounding three policemen near the city of Kerbala, 110 km (70 miles) southwest of Baghdad, police said.

A car bomber killed three members of a U.S. -funded neighbourhood security unit, and wounded 14 in an attack on a checkpoint in Dhuluiya, north of Baghdad,

A roadside bomb targeting a local council member near Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, wounded two of his bodyguards, police said.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE RESISTANCE
END THE OCCUPATION**

FORWARD OBSERVATIONS

One day while I was in a bunker in Vietnam, a sniper round went over my head. The person who fired that weapon was not a terrorist, a rebel, an extremist, or a so-called insurgent. The Vietnamese individual who tried to kill me was a citizen of Vietnam, who did not want me in his country. This truth escapes millions.

Mike Hastie
U.S. Army Medic
Vietnam 1970-71
December 13, 2004

**“How Is It Possible That We
Turn Our Back On Our
Own????”**

**“I Know That This Has To Come
Down From ‘Command’ Because The
Foot Soldiers Would NEVER Leave A
Comrade Behind”
[Comment]**

From: Wendy Barranco
To: GI Special
Sent: March 04, 2008
Subject: RE: GI Special 6B11: Command Dishonors Medevac

Dear Editor,

Wtf!

With all due respect to you and your informational issue I am sincerely appalled by the Medevac article speaking of purposely orchestrated delays by command.

As a combat medic who served in Iraq, I am ashamed to have been part of a command who says they pride themselves in saving lives, not losing them.

Our job is to save lives, American, Iraqi, coalition, whomever and to not render aid to those who bust their ass day in and day out in this senseless war is ridiculous.

How is it possible that we turn our back on our own????

What happened to the hippocratic oath?

I know that this has to come down from "command" because the foot soldiers would NEVER leave a comrade behind.

Shocked and ashamed in Los Angeles,

Wendy Barranco
US Army Veteran
Combat Medic
47th CSH Tikrit, Iraq-OIF IV

MORE:

[Here Are The Articles That Caused The Comment]

#1:

GI SPECIAL 6B11: 2.17.08:

“The Policy Of Not Letting Medevac Crews Launch To Save Soldiers Dishonors Their Sacred And Honored Tradition”

Letters To The Editor
February 18, 2008
Army Times

I was shocked at the policy that delayed immediate reaction of medical evacuation aircraft.

Soldiers have always known that when they give the call, Medevac would be there. This was the great tradition and legacy from Vietnam that gave us such heroes as Maj. Charles L. Kelly, Maj. Patrick H. Brady and Chief Warrant Officer Michael J. Novosel.

We often hear of the “golden hour” in which if you can treat the soldier and keep him alive, his chances of survival increase greatly. The Medevac trip may take 20 to 30 minutes, and an additional delay of 25 minutes waiting for gunship support could well put treatment outside of the critical time period.

My son was shot through both legs flying an OH-58D over Tal Afar, Iraq, in 2005.

His pilot-in-command, who was flying, was shot through the neck and rendered unconscious. He called for Medevac and they coordinated a rendezvous at a landing site. As the Medevac approached, it was met with withering fire and had to alter its approach path.

After picking up the wounded crew, the Medevac crew realized the aircraft would not make it to the hospital. They arranged to meet another Medevac and transfer the soldiers.

Had it not been for the Medevac crew’s rapid response and their refusal to abandon the approach and mission while under intense fire, my son may well have died.

The policy of not letting Medevac crews launch to save soldiers dishonors their sacred and honored tradition: “When I have your wounded.”

Chief Warrant Officer 4 James V. Torney (ret.)
Huntsville, Ala.

MORE:

#2:

GI SPECIAL 6B3: 2.2.08

**“I Believe Without A Doubt That
Soldiers Who Could Have Lived
Died Due To These New
Policies”**

**“How Upset Would You Be If Your
Friend Was Dying And Medevac**

Was Not Allowed To Come Immediately?”

“For The First Time In Seven Years Of Flying Medevac, I Am Ashamed To Be A Part Of This Mission”

“I Tried My Best And Was Reprimanded, Relieved And Insulted By My Battalion Commander”

The Medevac flight crews tried our best to launch as fast as possible, despite the unnecessary delays.

I was even relieved of my duties for launching immediately to save a fellow soldier after being instructed to wait 25 more minutes to launch.

Feb. 4, 2008
Letters To the Editor
Army Times

“What the hell happened to Medevac, sir?”

That was a question an angry sergeant asked me as I was eating chow last February at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq.

I didn't understand the question or the anger in his voice at the time, but I do now and would like to try to offer an explanation.

In the past, medical evacuation units reported to a medical command. These Medevac units had aviation assets, namely Black Hawk helicopters, but at the end of the day, Medical Service Corps officers were in charge.

Recently, the Medevac units were realigned to fall under an aviation command as a part of the new General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB).

My unit, the 571st Medical Company (AA) became C Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, and our new command decided to implement new Medevac procedures.

Ultimately, it was decided that Medevac aircraft would require gunship support for all off-FOB missions even if the landing zone was reported secure.

The new policy often caused significant delays in our response time, namely in the southern Multi-National Division-Baghdad area at FOB Kalsu, and a few soldiers may have died as a result.

I will say that after seven years of flying Medevac missions, including three Iraq tours, I believe without a doubt that soldiers who could have lived died due to these new policies, but that is only my opinion based on experience.

The launch policies were against the recommendations of the senior officers in my unit, and conflicted with MND-B Medevac policy, but the new restriction remained and we were forced to wait to launch.

In retrospect, the sergeant who spoke to me had every right to be upset since we were not always allowed to rapidly evacuate his soldiers when they were wounded.

How upset would you be if your friend was dying and Medevac was not allowed to come immediately?

As one of the pilots in C Company, 2nd Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, I would like to apologize to the soldiers in the southern Baghdad area of operations for the delays in Medevac from November 2006 until May 2007.

The Medevac flight crews tried our best to launch as fast as possible, despite the unnecessary delays.

I was even relieved of my duties for launching immediately to save a fellow soldier after being instructed to wait 25 more minutes to launch.

Our mission has never been easy, but it was always simple: Launch as fast as possible, fly as fast as possible and give the wounded the best chance to survive.

The new policies of the 1st Cavalry GSAB prevented us from doing just that, and for the first time in seven years of flying Medevac, I am ashamed to be a part of this mission.

It would be easy to focus on the thousands of Medevac missions that my unit performed without delay and ignore the small percentage that went so very wrong.

I, however, believe we need to do the opposite and focus on those soldiers we failed due to a flawed policy and an arrogant command.

I hope members of the 1st Cavalry Division take notice to what I have written and help me fix the problems with Medevac before the next combat tour.

I tried my best and was reprimanded, relieved and insulted by my battalion commander.

I hope that the next time one of our Medevac crews is sitting down at chow and a soldier walks over to speak, it is to say, "Thank you for a job well done."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Eric V. Brodeur

Fort Carson, Colo.
Newcastle, Calif.

Troops Invited:

What do you think? Comments from service men and women, and veterans, are especially welcome. Write to Box 126, 2576 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10025-5657 or send email contact@militaryproject.org. Name, I.D., withheld unless you request publication. Replies confidential. Same address to unsubscribe.

**Happy Anniversary:
March 12, 1912
Women Warriors Win Bread And
Roses**



IWW organizer Elizabeth Gurley Flynn addresses a strike rally

Carl Bunin Peace History March 12-18

The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) won the Lawrence, Massachusetts, "Bread & Roses" textile strike after 32,000 workers (mostly young female immigrants who spoke twenty-five different languages) stayed out for nine weeks.

They were striking for better pay, a 54-hour workweek and safer working conditions: the equipment was dangerous and the air quality caused lung disease in nearly one-third of the workers before the age of twenty-five.



Bread & Roses victory parade

"Bread and Roses," by James Oppenheimer

**As we go marching, marching, in the beauty of the day,
A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lots gray
Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses
For the people hear us singing: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, we battle, too, for men,
For they are women's children and we march with them again.
Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes;
Hearts starve as well bodies; give us bread but give us roses.**

**As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
Go crying through our singing their ancient call for bread.
Small art and love and beauty their drudging spirits knew;
Yes, it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses, too.**

**As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days;
The rising of the women means the rising of the race.
No more the drudge and idler, 10 that toil where one reposes,
But a sharing of life's glories: bread and roses, bread and roses.**

January 18, 2002 By ELIZABETH SCHULTE, Socialist Worker

JAMES OPPENHEIMER wrote the song "Bread and Roses" for striking textile workers in Lawrence, Mass.

He took the title from the banners of strikers, who demanded not just decent treatment at work, but the right to dignity and a better quality of life.

The textile bosses in Lawrence had hired women and children because they thought they could pay poverty wages and never face resistance. And they employed immigrants--who spoke more than 25 different languages--with the aim of keeping workers from uniting and fighting back.

But the bosses were wrong on both counts. More than 20,000 Lawrence workers struck against a 30-cent pay cut in January 1912.

Many workers were lured to Lawrence by advertisements in their home cities--throughout the Balkans and the Mediterranean--showing happy textile workers carrying bags of money home from their jobs. Instead, the new immigrants were greeted with miserable labor at poverty wages.

The strike came as a surprise to bosses, considering that the workers were largely unorganized. Because of its craft orientation and its policy of ignoring immigrant and women workers, the American Federation of Labor (AFL) had few locals in the textile industry.

AFL leaders actually opposed the Lawrence strike and by the end of the struggle had sided with the bosses -- denouncing strikers as anarchists and saboteurs. In contrast, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), or Wobblies, saw the Lawrence battle as a key struggle in their strategy of organizing all workers into "One Big Union."

ALTHOUGH THE IWW had been organizing in Lawrence since 1905, at times working with the more conservative AFL unions, they accelerated their campaign when one of the largest mills, Atlantic Cotton, struck against speedups in 1911. The Wobblies sent in some of their best organizers--J.P. Thompson, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Haywood, Arturo Giovannitti and Joe Ettor, whose ability to speak six languages was a tremendous asset.

But the backbone of the struggle was the workers of Lawrence themselves. In January 1912, Massachusetts passed labor reform legislation that limited women and children from working more than 54 hours a week. In Lawrence, the typical workweek was 56 hours. But because the law didn't have a provision preserving the two hours' pay, bosses instead decided to use the measure to cut wages.

Local 20, the Italian branch of the IWW, called a meeting on January 10 to discuss what action to take on payday. Some 1,000 workers showed up and voted to call workers on strike as soon as they received the checks.

On January 12, strikers poured out of the mills, some of them forming flying squads to go into factories to bring out other workers. Mill owners ordered their goons to attack workers, hosing them down with freezing water in the subzero January weather. But workers resisted, going into the factories and smashing machinery and windows.

The governor used this as an excuse to call out the National Guard, which joined police on the streets in intimidating workers.

In the course of the struggle, Lawrence workers devised several new and effective strike tactics. One was the mass picket. Instead of small picket lines, Lawrence strikers organized all their forces to block workplaces.

In the face of thousands of workers surrounding a factory, neither the bosses' scabs nor the police could do a thing.

And as they marched, sang and chanted in the thousands, workers built solidarity and a sense of their own power.

Building solidarity among the different immigrant groups--the largest were Italians, Poles, Russians, Syrians and Lithuanians--was critical to the strike's victory.

Questions in the struggle were debated and decisions made in weekly mass meetings attended by thousands of strikers. After each meeting, workers sang the workers' anthem from the Paris Commune, "The Internationale."

Day-to-day decisions were made by a strike committee, which was made up of elected representatives from each of the different language groups.

THE ROLE of women -- wives of strikers and strikers themselves -- was key to the strike's success, and the IWW did everything it could to foster their participation. The Wobblies organized special meetings for women and encouraged them to take on leadership positions.

"The women worked in the mills for lower pay and in addition had all the housework and the care of the children," wrote Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. "The old-world attitude of man as the 'lord and master' was strong. We resolutely set out to combat these notions. The women wanted to picket. We knew that to leave them at home alone, isolated from the strike activity, prey to worry...was dangerous for the strike."

Women proved to be some of the fiercest fighters.

On one occasion, a group of Italian women found a police officer alone on a bridge. They had taken his gun, club and badge and were in the process of removing his pants before throwing him into the water when he was rescued by the cavalry.

"The IWW has been accused of putting the women in the front," wrote Flynn.

"The truth is, the IWW does not keep them in the back, and they go to the front."

So it is no surprise that several women were elected strike committee delegates.

Concrete provisions were made to provide for workers' families. Strikers ran six commissaries and 11 soup kitchens.

And when the Lawrence schools taught strikers' children that their parents were "un-American" for striking, the IWW's Haywood organized meetings for the kids.

When the growing threat of violence from police and company goons made strikers fear for their children's safety, the workers devised a brilliant plan. Strike supporters in other parts of the country--mostly from New York City--were called on to house and care for the children for the strike's duration. When supporters gathered to meet the Lawrence children at Grand Central Station, it became a huge labor rally.

The strikers forced the mill bosses to settle in March--and won most of their demands. They got pay increases on a sliding scale, with the lowest-paid workers getting 25 percent raises; time and a quarter for overtime; and a guarantee that no striker would be discriminated against.

The victory encouraged a wave of strikes in several New England cities. For example, as soon as Wobblies arrived in Lowell, Mass., mill owners offered workers a 5 percent raise.

The history of this amazing struggle--especially its spirit of solidarity among men and women and between different immigrant groups--remains an inspiration today.

OCCUPATION REPORT

60% Of Iraqis Want U.S. Troops Dead: Big Surprise



Iraqi citizens are forced to sit in the dirt in the courtyard of their farm as foreign occupation soldiers from the 12th Field Artillery Regiment conduct armed home

invasions in the village of Mullah Eid, 8 kms south of Baquba, February 28, 2008.
(AFP/File/Patrick Baz)

[61% of Iraqis say they approve of attacks on U.S.-led forces in their country, up from 47 percent in January.

[A solid majority of Shiite and Sunni Arabs approved of the attacks, according to the poll. 9/27/2006 By BARRY SCHWEID, AP & Program on International Policy Attitudes

[Iraqis feel about U.S. troops trampling them in the dirt the same way Americans felt about British troops trampling them in the dirt in 1776. They are right to resist by any means necessary. T]



[images.google.com]

English soldiers search an American settler's house (1770's)

Declared Bill Ehrhart, a marine in Vietnam:

In grade school we learned about the redcoats, the nasty British soldiers that tried to stifle our freedom. Subconsciously, but not very subconsciously, I began increasingly to have the feeling that I was a redcoat. I think it was one of the most staggering realizations of my life.

**OCCUPATION ISN'T LIBERATION
BRING ALL THE TROOPS HOME NOW!**

DANGER: POLITICIANS AT WORK



CLASS WAR REPORTS



NEED SOME TRUTH? CHECK OUT TRAVELING SOLDIER

Telling the truth - about the occupation or the criminals running the government in Washington - is the first reason for Traveling Soldier. But we want to do more than tell the truth; we want to report on the resistance - whether it's in the streets of Baghdad, New York, or inside the armed forces.

Our goal is for Traveling Soldier to become the thread that ties working-class people inside the armed services together. We want this newsletter to be a weapon to help you organize resistance within the armed forces.

If you like what you've read, we hope that you'll join with us in building a network of active duty organizers. <http://www.traveling-soldier.org/>

And join with Iraq War vets in the call to end the occupation and bring our troops home now! (www.ivaw.org/)

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The following have chosen to post issues; there may be others:

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